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Woodbridge Urban District Council.

Annual Report
OF THE
Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR

1965

C.H. IMRIE,
T.D., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
Late Hon. Surgeon to H.M. the Queen.

Eden Lodge,
Woodbridge,
Suffolk.

October 1966.

The Chairman and Councillors,
Woodbridge Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Madam and Gentlemen,

My report for the year 1965 is submitted herewith. It has been prepared on much the same lines as in previous years and conforms to the requirements of the Ministry of Health.

It will be seen that the report is rather more detailed than in previous years. This has been made possible by the willing assistance which I have received in its preparation from the staff and especially from Mr. D. Snowden, the Additional Public Health Inspector, whose work in the environmental field has been invaluable.

I would like to thank the Council and the Officials for their co-operation during the year.

I am,
Your obedient Servant,

C.H. IMRIE,

Medical Officer of Health.

SUMMARY OF STATISTICS

Area of District ...	1112 acres	Population	6290
No. of inhabited houses ...	2760	Product of Penny Rate ...	£736

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Chairman: F.W. Tyson, Esq.

Mrs. E.A.E. Cragg
Dr. A. Daly Briscoe
R.N.V. Jacobs, Esq.
R.C. Northcote, Esq.
F.J. Wilding, Esq.
H.N. Bateman, Esq., J.P.
(Ex Officio)

OFFICERS

Medical Officer of Health:
C.H. IMRIE, T.D., Q.H.S.,
M.B., Ch.B.,
D.P.H.

Surveyor & Public Health
Inspector:
G. OGDEN, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.
(to July 1965)

Additional Public Health
Inspector:
D.W. SNOWDEN, M.R.S.H.,
M.A.P.H.I.

Engineer & Surveyor:
JOHN SMITH, A.M.I.Mun.E.,
M.I.H.E.,
(from September 1965)

1. The Registrar General estimated the mid-year population of Woodbridge at 6,290, which is an increase of 30 over the previous year. The population increase of Woodbridge over the past ten years is 700 and shows a slow but steady rate of growth.

2. The figure for Births in 1965, while about the average for the past ten years, does not show the same upward trend and produces a Birth Rate which, even allowing for corrections, is below the national figure.

3. Still Births were reported in only two cases.

The General Death Rate when adjusted for comparison was well below that rate for England and Wales but the infantile Death Rate was rather higher than the corresponding national level.

4. From the above figures we can see that while Woodbridge continues to grow at a modest rate a proportion at least of this growth may be attributed to immigration. The population, however, seems to be living longer.

5. Reference to the table of causes of death shows that the pattern is much the same for the preceding years. Approximately one-half of all deaths are due to diseases of the heart and circulatory system, while one-fifth are due to malignant diseases. These proportions have been fairly constant over the past few years. It is noteworthy that these diseases are in the main conditions which occur in older people and this is brought out by the following table of ages at death:-

6.

Age Group	under 1 year	1 to 4 yrs.	5 to 14 yrs.	15 to 24 yrs.	25 to 34 yrs	35 to 44 yrs.	45 to 54 yrs.	55 to 64 yrs.	65 to 74 yrs.	74 yrs. +
M	2	1	-	-	-	1	2	3	11	14
F	1	-	-	-	-	-	3	6	5	23
Total	3	1	-	-	-	1	5	9	16	37

7. During the year 161 notifications of infectious disease were received. Of this number 124 related to Measles, 16 to Scarlet Fever and the remaining 21 were Whooping Cough, Pneumonia and Dysentery. Measles was prevalent from March to August while Scarlet Fever occurred in odd sporadic cases throughout the year.

8. There were no fresh cases of Tuberculosis during 1965 and the number on the register fell by 5 during the year.

9. The control of communicable disease is exercised in two main directions. In the first place this authority has responsibility for the environmental health matters within the area. This means the supervision of all matters which might have an adverse effect on the health and well-being of the community. The County Council on the other hand as the Local Health Authority is responsible for the personal health service in the area and this includes the immunisation against infectious disease. This service is provided against Diphtheria, Whooping Cough, Tetanus and Poliomyelitus. Vaccination against Smallpox is carried out by General Practitioners.

10. Work on the production of a reliable form of immunisation against Measles is, I understand, well advanced and it is hoped that the time is not far distant when this disease will come under control. Scarlet Fever in its classic form is in these days most unusual but a streptococcal infection of the throat which is in many ways similar to Scarlet Fever does occur, fortunately as a rule with less severity than Scarlet Fever.

11. After the war Woodbridge was faced with the problem, in common with many other towns, of improving and bringing up to date the housing conditions in its area. This was no small undertaking but over the subsequent years progress has been made. More recently, however, the tempo has been rather slower and there is still a considerable number of properties which require attention. Action in some cases has been delayed by lack of alternative accommodation being available.

12. During the year a close watch was kept on general housing conditions and a record of the work done in this connection will be found in the statistical section.

13. Refuse disposal by controlled tipping continued throughout the year. The Haugh Lane site continues to provide the necessary facilities and regular supervision has been maintained over the working of the site. I do not feel that there is now any cause for complaints of nuisance.

14. The sewage disposal works which will handle the sewage from Woodbridge and the adjoining parishes was nearing completion by the end of the year.

15. In previous reports I have referred to the unattractive condition of some of the Public Conveniences in the town. The position has now been greatly improved by the new toilets at the Market Hill but some of the older ones still leave much to be desired. In general the cleaning is thorough and painstaking but floors and tiled surrounds are in many cases cracked and harbour dirt and offend both eyes and nose.

16. Food hygiene is a matter of the utmost importance and all food premises are visited and inspected. The figures relating to the inspections will be found in the statistical section.

Summary of Vital Statistics

1956 to 1965

	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965
Estimated Population	5590	5620	5680	5950	6190	6020	6070	6100	6260	6290
Birth Rate	12·7 (71)	16·19 (91)	17·9 (102)	15·4 (92)	16·18 (100)	12·8 (77)	14·6 (89)	12·95 (79)	16·93 (106)	14·14 (89)
Still Birth Rate	nil	31·8 (3)	9·8 (1)	10·8 (1)	10·0 (1)	nil	21·9 (2)	48·2 (4)	9·43 (1)	21·9 (2)
Death Rate	13·7 (77)	11·2 (66)	10·5 (62)	12·6 (75)	11·9 (74)	12·45 (75)	13·8 (84)	15·57 (95)	12·6 (79)	11·4 (72)
Infantile Death Rate	nil	32·9 (3)	9·8 (1)	10·8 (1)	50·0 (5)	12·9 (1)	11·2 (1)	37·9 (3)	9·34 (1)	33·7 (3)

Note: Infantile Death Rate is the rate per 1,000 live births - the other rates are per 1,000 population.

The Still Birth Rate is the rate per 1,000 live and still births.

Figures in brackets are the actual numbers.

Analysis of Vital Statistics

	Male	Female	Total	Crude Rate per 1000 Population	Adjusted Rate for Comparison	Rate per 1000 Population England & Wales
Live Births						
Legitimate	40	45	89	14·14	16·4	18·0
Illegitimate	1	3				
Still Births						
Legitimate	2	-	2	* 22·4	-	15·7
Illegitimate	-	-				
Deaths all Ages	34	38	72	11·4	9·46	11·5
Deaths under 1 year of age	2	1	3	* 33·5	-	19·0

* This rate is expressed per 1000 live births.

Causes of Death

Code No.		Male	Female	Total 1965	Total 1964
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory	-	-	-	1
2.	Tuberculosis, other	-	-	-	-
3.	Syphilitic disease	-	-	-	-
4.	Diphtheria	-	-	-	-
5.	Whooping Cough	-	-	-	-
6.	Meningococcal infections	1	-	1	1
7.	Acute poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-
8.	Measles	-	-	-	-
9.	Other infective and parasitic disease	-	-	-	-
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	-	-	-	-
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	4	-	4	4
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	1	1	1
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	1	1	-
14.	Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms	4	4	8	8
15.	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	-	-	-	-
16.	Diabetes	-	-	-	-
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system	2	7	9	10
18.	Coronary disease, angina	9	3	12	13
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	1	1	2	2
20.	Other heart disease	2	4	6	9
21.	Other circulatory disease	2	6	8	3
22.	Influenza	-	1	1	-
23.	Pneumonia	1	3	4	9
24.	Bronchitis	2	1	3	3
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system	-	-	-	1
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	1	2	-
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	-	-	-	1
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	-	-	-	-
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	1	-	1	-
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	-	-	-	-
31.	Congenital malformations	1	-	1	2
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	2	3	5	5
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	-	1	1	3
34.	All other accidents	1	-	1	3
35.	Suicide	-	1	1	-
36.	Homicide and operations of war	-	-	-	-
		34	38	72	79

Infectious Disease

Notifications Received

Disease	under 1	1 to 2	2 to 4	5 to 9	10 to 14	15 to 24	25 to 44	45 to 64	65 & over	age unknown	Total
Scarlet Fever	-	3	1	7	2	1	-	-	-	2	16
Whooping Cough	-	1	1	3	-	-	-	-	-	4	9
Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Measles	2	18	28	59	5	3	-	-	-	9	124
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pneumonia	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	2	5	2	10
Dysentery	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	2
Food Poisoning	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Jaundice	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
											161

Monthly Notifications

Disease	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apl	May	Jne	Jly	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Scarlet Fever	-	-	7	1	1	1	1	-	1	-	3	1	16
Whooping Cough	8	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9
Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Measles	2	-	4	2	48	25	35	7	1	-	-	-	124
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pneumonia	3	1	2	1	1	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	10
Dysentery	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2
Food Poisoning	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Jaundice	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
													161

Tuberculosis

	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Total
	M	F	M	F	
Number on Register 1st January, 1965	14	3	1	2	20
Number of cases notified during the year	-	-	-	-	-
Number restored to Register	-	-	-	-	-
Number added otherwise than by Notification	-	-	-	-	-
Number of cases removed from Register	3	1	1	-	5
Number remaining on Register at 31st December, 1965	11	2	-	2	15

Details of Cases added to Register

Nil

Details of Cases removed from Register

4	-	Recovered
1	-	Died

HOUSING

Statistics for 1965

Number of inhabited houses including 461 Council-owned dwellings according to the rate books at 31st March, 1966	2760
Average number of persons per house	2·28
Number of houses completed by the Council during the year	24
Number of houses built by private enterprise during the year	71
Total of post-war Council houses completed to 31.12.65.	401

Number of Improvement Grant applications approved in 1965:

a) Discretionary	1) Owner-occupied properties	-	Nil
	2) Tenanted properties	-	7
b) Standard	1) Owner-occupied properties	-	22
	2) Tenanted properties	-	13

General Inspection

a) Total number of houses inspected during the year for all purposes	91
b) Number found to be unsatisfactory in some respect	61
c) Number occupied in respect of which demolition or clearance orders had been made	1

Housing Repairs Instigated

Number of dwelling houses rendered fit as a result of informal action	18
Number of Scheduled (1955) unfit houses rendered fit	Nil

Clearance Areas

No. of Clearance Orders made	Nil
No. of properties involved in Clearance Orders	Nil
No. of dwelling houses demolished as a result of Clearance Orders	Nil
No. of dwellings included in designated Clearance Areas (to be acquired by the Council)	Nil

Individually Unfit Houses

No. of dwellings in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	1
No. of dwellings demolished as a result of Demolition Orders	Nil
No. of dwellings demolished as a result of formal or informal procedure	Nil
No. of dwellings in respect of which or part of which Closing Orders were made (Secs. 16 & 18 Housing Act, 1957)	Nil
No. of informal undertakings not to re-let accepted	6
No. of families re-housed from unfit houses	4

House Improvement Grants

Details of applications received and approved during 1965 are given in the Statistical section of this report. However, it may be of interest to note brief details of improvement schemes which were completed during the year, as follows:-

Standard Grants

Thirty-six dwellings, which comprised seventeen owner-occupied and nineteen tenanted premises were provided with the following total number of amenities:-

35 fixed baths, in a bathroom.
35 wash hand basins.
36 hot water supplies.
22 internal water closets.
18 ventilated food stores.

The average Grant per house was approximately £191.

Discretionary Grants

A total of twenty dwellings were improved with the aid of this more comprehensive type of Grant, comprising two owner-occupied and eighteen tenanted premises.

The average Grant per separate unit of accommodation was approximately £375.

Compulsory Improvement

No formal action was thought necessary under the Housing Act, 1964, which came into force during the year, and which contains measures to enforce owners to improve rented houses built before 1945, subject to certain conditions.

It may be that occupiers of such rented property are not yet aware of their right to make representations to the local authority in this respect.

Pail Closet Conversions

The number of pail closet conversions to water-borne sanitation during 1965 is estimated to be 54.

Houses in Multiple Occupation

No action was necessary in respect of any premises let in lodgings or occupied by members of more than one family.

Public Health Conditions

(i) Forty-four public health complaints were received from members of the public during the year regarding such items as drainage, offensive smells and verminous premises etc. All were investigated and the necessary action taken.

(ii) Eleven complaints, primarily of a housing nature, were received alleging defects such as overcrowding, extensive dampness and repair defects. Most of these complaints were from persons occupying sub-standard housing and occupying a place on the Housing List, and conditions were investigated in each case.

(iii) Seventy-two informal notices were served to abate nuisances or secure essential repairs. Twenty-two notices were complied with during the year. In no case was Statutory action found necessary to abate a nuisance.

Rodent Control

Number of premises treated during 1965:-

a)	Dwelling houses	-	49
b)	Other premises	-	3

Eradication of Vermin

Premises disinfested	-	1
Wasps nests destroyed	-	45

FOOD PREMISES

The number of premises in Woodbridge in which food of one kind or another is sold to the public is 86.

The following gives the type of premises concerned:-

Bakers	2
Butchers	7
Confectioners	16
Departmental Store	1
Fish Merchants	3
Fish & Chip Shops	4
Green Grocers, Fruiterers	8
Grocers (including small general stores) ...	16
Licensed Premises (Hotels, public houses, off licences) ...	18
Restaurants, cafes and snack bars	10
Supermarkets	1

FOOD INSPECTION

During the year the following items were inspected, found to be unfit for human consumption and condemned, under the 'voluntary surrender' procedure:-

15 lbs. Cooked Ham (2 lots)
3 - 4lb. tins Chopped Pork
2 - 8oz. tins Bacon and Beans
3 lbs. tinned Tomatoes
10 lbs. Prepacked Ox Kidneys
6lb. 12oz. Corned Beef (2 lots)
3 - 6lb. tins Ox Tongue
332 lbs. Imported Lamb (3 lots)
2 gallons Whelks
1 - 5lb. tin Cream Cheese
4oz. tin Smoked Saithe
3 - 1lb. 12oz. tins Celery Hearts
2lb. 12oz. tin Grapefruit Juice.

A total of eighteen Certificates were issued to the seven food businesses who voluntarily surrendered the above foods for destruction.

Note: The above amount is very small in comparison with the total quantity of food sold in Woodbridge.

Food Hygiene Regulations

Of those food premises receiving an inspection during the year, a majority had one or more items needing attention, which resulted in informal notices being served on those persons responsible.

Ten such defective premises were rendered satisfactory by the end of the year.

No contraventions were found which would in my opinion warrant the institution of legal proceedings.

Foreign Bodies in Food

Two cases were reported and investigated. Steps were taken to prevent a recurrence of the complaints.

Ice Cream

The total number of premises registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, for the storage and sale of pre-packed ice cream is 22.

Three premises are registered for the manufacture of sausages; or the preparation of potted, pressed, pickled or preserved food.

FACTORIES ACT, 1961

ANNUAL REPORT

Type	On Register	Inspections	Defects	Remedied
Factories without Power	3	-	-	-
Factories with Power	34	-	-	-
TOTALS	37	-	-	-

Outworkers on Register - One; making up industrial and safety clothing - satisfactory conditions.

National Assistance Act, 1948

No statutory action under Section 47 of this Act was considered necessary during 1965.

OFFICES, SHOPS & RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

Registration and General Inspections:

CLASS of Premises	No. of premises registered during the year	No. of registered premises at 31.12.65.	No. of registered premises receiving a general inspection during the year
OFFICES	8	39	6
RETAIL SHOPS	12	67	7
WHOLESALE SHOPS, WAREHOUSES	Nil	4	Nil
CATERING ESTABLISHMENTS OPEN TO PUBLIC; CANTEENS	3	12	1
FUEL STORAGE DEPOTS	Nil	3	Nil
TOTALS	23	125	14

Total number of visits of all kinds to registered premises under the Act = 35.

Note: "Registered premises" means any premises in respect of which a notice under section 49 of the Act has been received by the local authority ... and the expression "premises registered" shall be construed accordingly.

"General inspection" means any inspection of premises to which the Act applies which is undertaken for the purposes of ascertaining whether all the relevant provisions of the Act and instruments thereunder are complied with as respects those premises.

Analysis of Persons Employed in Registered Premises by Workplace:

Class of Workplace	No. of Persons Employed
OFFICES	263
RETAIL SHOPS	311
WHOLESALE DEPARTMENTS; WAREHOUSES	41
CATERING ESTABLISHMENTS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC	42
CANTEENS	Nil
FUEL STORAGE DEPOTS	9
TOTAL	666
TOTAL MALES	309
" FEMALES	357

Analysis of Contraventions

After the first general inspection has been carried out an informal notice is sent to the occupier or owner setting out in detail the works required to secure compliance with the Act.

A summary of the matters found to be requiring attention during 1965 is set out below:-

Contravention	No. of Premises Affected
Absence of Abstract	4
Unsatisfactory Cleanliness	3
Inadequate Ventilation	1
Insufficient Lighting	1
Items relating to Sanitary Accommodation	3
Items relating to Washing Facilities	6
Absence of Drinking Water	1
Clothing Accommodation required	3
First Aid Boxes required	7
Seats required	1
Eating facilities required	1
Defective floors, passages, stairs	1

The above contraventions were in relation to the 14 premises which received a general inspection during the year.

Reported Accidents

Two accidents were reported during the year, neither of a serious nature. One occurred in shop premises, the other in office grounds. Informal advice to the respective employers was the only action to be recommended in either case.